

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 3

Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Elementary/Secondary Education

Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

Public elementary and secondary enrollment is projected to increase to 53 million in 2016. The South is projected to experience the largest increase in enrollment.

In 2007,¹ about 50 million students are expected to be enrolled in public schools. Of these students, 34.6 million will be enrolled in prekindergarten (preK) through 8th grade and 15.0 million will be enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

After declining during the 1970s and early 1980s to 39.4 million in 1985, public school enrollment in grades preK–12 increased in the latter part of the 1980s, throughout the 1990s, and through the early 2000s, and is projected to reach an estimated 49.6 million in 2007 (see supplemental table 3-1). Total public school enrollment is projected to set new enrollment records each year from 2007 through 2016 (53.3 million).

Enrollment trends in grades preK–8 and 9–12 have differed over time as students move through the public school system. For example, enrollment in grades preK–8 decreased throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, while enrollment in grades 9–12 decreased in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. Public school enrollment in grades preK–8 is projected to increase to 34.6

million in 2007 and to reach 37.9 million in 2016. Enrollment in grades 9–12 is projected to increase to 15.0 million in 2007 and to decrease through 2011 before increasing to a high of 15.4 million in 2016.

Since 1965 the southern region has had the largest share of public enrollment in the United States. The regional distribution of students in public schools, however, has not remained static. In 1965, the proportion of public elementary and secondary enrollment in the South was 33 percent and is projected to increase to 37 percent in 2007. While the share of enrollment in the West was 18 percent in 1965, it is projected to increase to 24 percent in 2007. In contrast, the share of enrollment in the Midwest was 28 percent in 1965 and is projected to decrease to 22 percent in 2007. The share of national enrollment in the Northeast was 21 percent in 1965 and is projected to decrease to 17 percent in 2007. Between 2008 and 2016, the share of public school enrollment in grades preK–12 is projected to decrease slightly in the Northeast and Midwest, increase in the South, and remain steady in the West.

¹ All estimates are from the fall of the referenced year.

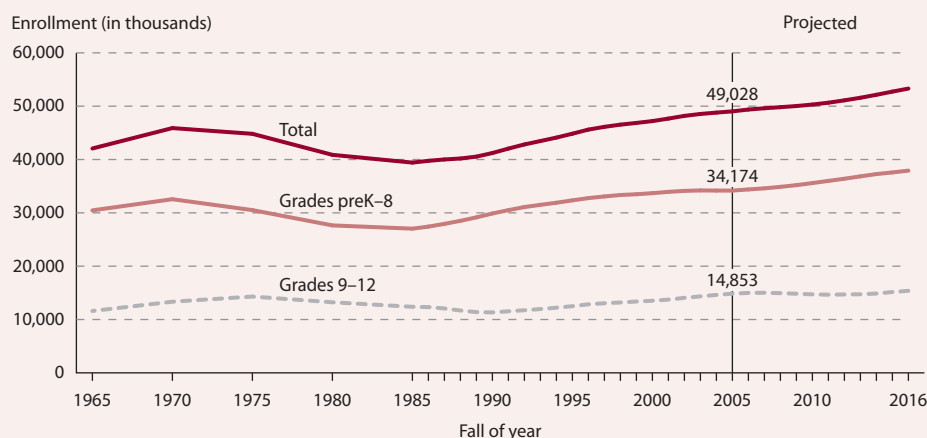
NOTE: Includes kindergarten and most prekindergarten enrollment. Data for years 2000, 2003, and 2004 were revised and may differ from previously published figures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics*, 2006 (NCES 2007-017), table 36; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2016* (NCES 2007-038), tables 1 and 4; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12; and table ESE65, retrieved May 22, 2007, from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/historicaltables.asp>; data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 to 2004–05 and *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Systems*, various years, 1965–66 to 1985–86.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1,3
Supplemental Table 3-1



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Public school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, by grade level, with projections: Various years, fall 1965–2016



Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

Table 3-1. Public school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, by grade level and region, with projections: Various years, fall 1965–2016

[Totals in thousands]											
Fall of year	Total enrollment			Total and percent enrollment, grades preK–12 by region							
	Grades preK–12	Grades preK–8	Grades 9–12	Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
				Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
1965	42,068	30,466	11,602	8,833	21.0	11,834	28.1	13,834	32.9	7,568	18.0
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	9,860	21.5	12,936	28.2	14,759	32.2	8,339	18.2
1975	44,819	30,515	14,304	9,679	21.6	12,295	27.4	14,654	32.7	8,191	18.3
1980	40,877	27,647	13,231	8,215	20.1	10,698	26.2	14,134	34.6	7,831	19.2
1985	39,422	27,034	12,388	7,318	18.6	9,862	25.0	14,117	35.8	8,124	20.6
1986	39,753	27,420	12,333	7,294	18.3	9,871	24.8	14,312	36.0	8,276	20.8
1987	40,008	27,933	12,076	7,252	18.1	9,870	24.7	14,419	36.0	8,468	21.2
1988	40,189	28,501	11,687	7,208	17.9	9,846	24.5	14,491	36.1	8,644	21.5
1989	40,543	29,152	11,390	7,200	17.8	9,849	24.3	14,605	36.0	8,889	21.9
1990	41,217	29,878	11,338	7,282	17.7	9,944	24.1	14,807	35.9	9,184	22.3
1991	42,047	30,506	11,541	7,407	17.6	10,080	24.0	15,081	35.9	9,479	22.5
1992	42,823	31,088	11,735	7,526	17.6	10,198	23.8	15,357	35.9	9,742	22.7
1993	43,465	31,504	11,961	7,654	17.6	10,289	23.7	15,591	35.9	9,931	22.8
1994	44,111	31,898	12,213	7,760	17.6	10,386	23.5	15,851	35.9	10,114	22.9
1995	44,840	32,341	12,500	7,894	17.6	10,512	23.4	16,118	35.9	10,316	23.0
1996	45,611	32,764	12,847	8,006	17.6	10,638	23.3	16,373	35.9	10,594	23.2
1997	46,127	33,073	13,054	8,085	17.5	10,704	23.2	16,563	35.9	10,775	23.4
1998	46,539	33,346	13,193	8,145	17.5	10,722	23.0	16,713	35.9	10,959	23.5
1999	46,857	33,488	13,369	8,196	17.5	10,726	22.9	16,842	35.9	11,093	23.7
2000	47,204	33,688	13,515	8,217	17.4	10,753	22.8	17,008	36.0	11,246	23.8
2001	47,672	33,938	13,734	8,250	17.3	10,745	22.5	17,237	36.2	11,440	24.0
2002	48,183	34,116	14,067	8,297	17.2	10,819	22.5	17,471	36.3	11,596	24.1
2003	48,540	34,202	14,338	8,292	17.1	10,809	22.3	17,673	36.4	11,766	24.2
2004	48,795	34,178	14,617	8,271	17.0	10,775	22.1	17,892	36.7	11,857	24.3
Projected											
2005	49,028	34,174	14,853	8,237	16.8	10,754	21.9	18,083	36.9	11,954	24.4
2006	49,370	34,387	14,983	8,234	16.7	10,810	21.9	18,327	37.1	11,999	24.3
2007	49,610	34,592	15,018	8,209	16.5	10,803	21.8	18,532	37.4	12,066	24.3
2008	49,812	34,873	14,939	8,172	16.4	10,778	21.6	18,747	37.6	12,115	24.3
2009	50,028	35,195	14,834	8,135	16.3	10,758	21.5	18,963	37.9	12,173	24.3
2010	50,303	35,581	14,722	8,106	16.1	10,750	21.4	19,192	38.2	12,255	24.4
2011	50,653	35,994	14,659	8,087	16.0	10,762	21.2	19,449	38.4	12,355	24.4
2012	51,093	36,397	14,696	8,083	15.8	10,793	21.1	19,745	38.6	12,472	24.4
2013	51,579	36,841	14,739	8,092	15.7	10,837	21.0	20,041	38.9	12,610	24.4
2014	52,135	37,271	14,864	8,116	15.6	10,899	20.9	20,355	39.0	12,765	24.5
2015	52,733	37,578	15,155	8,151	15.5	10,966	20.8	20,672	39.2	12,943	24.5
2016	53,300	37,917	15,382	8,185	15.4	11,029	20.7	20,960	39.3	13,126	24.6

NOTE: Includes kindergarten and most prekindergarten enrollment. Data for years 2000, 2003, and 2004 were revised and may differ from previously published figures. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2006* (NCES 2007-017), table 36; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2016* (NCES 2007-038), tables 1 and 4; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12; and table ESE65, retrieved May 22, 2007, from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/historicaltables.asp>; data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 to 2004–05 and *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Systems*, various years, 1965–66 to 1985–86.